

Remarks/Arguments

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Action, claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Law et al.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claims, applicant's invention comprises a square tubular solid portion having a substantially rectangular section having a height and a width greater than the height and a cylindrical solid portion having an annular section with the outside diameter being greater than the height of but smaller than the width of the rectangular section and overlapping the central portion of the rectangular section.

Since the tubular plugging face has a cylindrical solid portion as well as a rectangular solid portion, a small plugging deviation is automatically absorbed for smooth plugging.

With respect to the prior art, Law et al. disclose a keyed electronic interconnect device comprising an interconnect body 26 including an alignment notch 46 on each sidewall 42, 44. A recess 74 is defined in the body 26.

However, Law et al. neither disclose nor suggest any cylindrical solid portion having an annular section and an outside diameter greater than the height of but smaller

than the width of the rectangular section. In fact, the interconnect body 26 of Law et al. has two rectangular solid portions with a cylindrical cavity off the center of the crossed rectangular solid portions. Consequently, as described in applicant's specification, the interconnect body of Law et al. suffer from larger manufacturing errors and no correction capability for the plugging deviation.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention as recited in claims 1-3 and 5 is not anticipated by Law et al.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 4 and 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

As set forth above, applicant believes that the base claim is patentable over Law et al. and that the dependent claims are also patentable over the Law et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-8 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
TAKEUCHI & KUBOTERA, LLP



By Yusuke Takeuchi
Reg. No. 30,921
Tel(703) 684-9777